

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 34-37 are pending, with claims 37 amended and claim 38 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, claims 1-15 and 34-36 were allowed, claim 38 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by JP 2000-089233 (JP '233) in view of JP 7-181316 (JP'316).

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 37 is amended to recite the allowable features of claim 38. No new matter is added.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

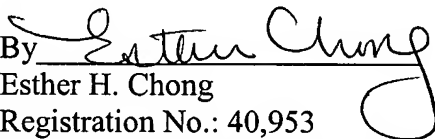
Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 15, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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